





Etymology of Macedonian toponym Vardar

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June 29, 2022

The denomination of the *Macedonian river Vardar* has a *completely evident INDO-IRANIAN (ARYAN) etymology* – it's enough to open any *Sanskrit dictionary*: Proto-Indo-European (PIE.) **(h)weh₁r-* “water; rain” {cognate/⌘ Old Indo-Aryan (OIA.) *vār(i)-* “water; rain”, Avestan *vāra-* “rain”} + **d^her-* “to keep, to hold, to carry” → **weh₁r-d^hor-ó-s* “water-holding → river”¹ → Proto-Indo-Iranian/Aryan (PII.) **wārd^hārás* {⌘ Skr. *vārid^hara-* “water-holding; rain-cloud” ← PIE. **weh₁r-i-d^hor-ó-*} → Proto-Iranian (PIr.) **wārdārāh*, or **(h)weh₁r-* + PIE. **d^henh₂-* “to run; to flow” → **d^hnh₂-ró-s* “running; current, stream” {⌘ PIE. **d^hnh₂-rā* → OIA. *d^hārā* “stream, river; flood, torrent, torrential rain”²} → **weh₁r-d^hnh₂-ró-s* “water-stream → river” → PII. **wārd^hārás* {⌘ Skr. *vārid^hārā* “water-stream” ← PIE. **weh₁r-i-d^hnh₂-rā*} → PIr. **wārdārāh* → Irano-Bulgarian/Ancient-Bulgarian/Proto-Bulgarian (IrBg.) **wārdārāh* → **wārdārā* → **wārdārə* → **vārdārə* → **Vārdār**; alternative Indo-European etymology: **(h)weh₁r-* + PIE. **d^hólh₂-o-s* “dale, valley” {⌘ PIE. **d^hólh₂-o-* → Proto-Germanic **dala-* “dale, valley” → Eng. *dale*, PIE. **d^hólh₂-o-* → Bg. *дол* “dale”}³ → **weh₁r-d^hólh₂-o-s* “water-dale → river-dale” → PII. **wārd^hálas* → PIr. **wārdārāh* → IrBg. **wārdārəh* → **wārdārə* → **vārdārə* → **Vārdār** → Old-Bulgarian **ВарьДарь* → Byzantine-Greek Βαρδάριος.

I'm sorry, brothers “Macedonians”, the name of your most famous river *Vardar* is **PROTO-BULGARIAN!**



tablet
from

Vinitsa fortress,
North Macedonia
(end of V - VI cent. a.D.)

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3. Pokorny, Julius: *Indogermanisches etymologisches Wörterbuch*, Francke Verlag, Bern/München 1959-1969, p.245-246
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